

December 2019 Parish Council Meeting

St. Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

12/17/2019

Present: Fr. Gregory Ealy, Dcn. David Abshear, Brian Garber, Ann McLarnan, David Short, Kerrie Wiese, Bruce Garber, Erin Caldwell, Alyson Turri, Jim Cunningham, Heather Weis.

Opening Prayer

Meeting opened at 6:07PM. Fr. Gregory led "O Heavenly King".

Approval of November Meeting Minutes

David Short moved that we accept the November meeting minutes. Ann seconded. Council approved the motion unanimously.

Fr. Gregory Policy Updates

Move Receipts and Reimbursements

Everything has been turned in and rectified.

Health Insurance

Kerrie reported that Fr. Gregory gets a tax credit for health insurance, so the amount we budgeted for the health insurance policy is almost twice the amount needed for health insurance with the tax credit. Kerrie suggested covering dental or eye insurance in place of moving it to an HSA because of the complications an HSA can present. Additionally, Father's current plan is not eligible for an HSA.

Heather moved that we add dental and vision to the current health insurance. David Short seconded. Fr. Gregory will contact his insurance person to add these things. Kerrie will amend the budget after she hears from Fr. Gregory regarding the new policies.

Car Allowance

Fr. Gregory reported that the current allowance is working out fine so far.

Upcoming Events

St. Macrina Institute Catechetical & Diaconate Program

Registration begins Jan 6. The program will start Jan 25th at 2PM.

Professor Peter Bouteneff Talk

Professor Peter Bouteneff chose the “How to Be a Sinner” theme for his talk on Feb 1, 2020. Prof. Bouteneff requested \$550 for travel expenses (including the stipend), but Bruce thought that was a bit low and suggested increasing it by \$50. Kerrie moved to increase the amount to \$600 as suggested. Heather seconded.

Fr. Gregory will inform Prof. Peter Bouteneff of the agreement and Erin Caldwell will organize the food after the event. Erin will email Prof. Bouteneff to get a description for the event and advertise it, including inviting the Greek church and other churches in the area.

Infant CPR and First Aid Program

\$250 for group, scheduled for Jan 18, 10 AM. Bruce will contact the group and ask what type of space they will need to ensure we set up in the appropriate room. Bruce would like to discuss providing childcare, but we need to get an idea of where we will host the program and how many people would utilize the childcare option.

Social Events

The Social Committee plans to meet to plan for 2020. Currently, we have a Ladies Night planned for the first week of January and a ballroom dance event for Feb. 14th. Erin asked for information about what she needs to do in order to allow alcohol at the event and was instructed to carefully review the by-laws.

Parish Council Planning Workshop

The Parish Council workshop is scheduled for Jan 25th from 9AM-12PM with a catered lunch. Families will be invited to lunch at 12PM. David Short will coordinate the catering.

Financial Report

October Financials and 2019 YTD

Kerrie reported that we did purchase 5 CDs in November, but transferred the money in October, which accounts for the decreased amount in the checking account. She reported that we also paid on the parking lot, which decreased the Capital Improvement funds. Additionally, we purchased vestments for Dcn. Dave. YTD our contributions are higher than submitted pledges, but we are at 69% of the operating budget, and the contributions are lower than this time last year.

Laura would like to have online access to the CDs so that she can print reports for the CDs. Heather and Bruce need to talk to David Avdakov to get access to the online accounts.

2020 Budget – Pledge Status

Bruce stated that pledges are still being received. Kerrie reported that we are currently \$26,000 lower in pledges. We do not need to accept pledges after the 2020 Budget is complete because we do not change the budget after it is accepted for the year, which will not be done until late January; therefore,

we still have a bit of time to get pledges in. Bruce will review the pledge list and contact those individuals who have not yet submitted a pledge, and he will make a reminder announcement on Sunday.

Offering Counting Function

Bruce utilized the new system this week and it worked well. The process went very quickly.

Darkness to Light Administrator

David Short spoke to Mary Kay. She would like to retire from her position as administrator. Ann McClarnan has agreed to take over this position. Alyson suggested that we increase the number of people who go through the program so that more people will be available to help with the Sunday School program. Erin will add something to the bulletin to encourage people to join the upcoming program. Ann will check in with Alyson and Kerrie regarding the issues and put together a plan to address their needs. Miho also needs a background check since she is working with the children's choir.

Parish Pew Cards

Maria Brausch reported to Bruce that the pew cards we printed in the past with suggestive guidelines and helpful prayers have disappeared over time and asked if we would like to reprint them. Council discussed the options, and Erin and Fr. Gregory will review the current card and work to make any necessary changes. Then, Erin will print, laminate, and place the cards.

OCA Website Page

Everything is out of date. Fr. Gregory will email the person responsible for updating the site, and he will look into information about Fr. Mark Hodges. Erin suggests removing everything except the clergy and a link to our website for continuity.

St. Mary's Choir CD Sale

Miho is still selling them. Erin will put an announcement in the bulletin.

Votive Lamps

Dcn. Dave reported that the altar servers have been considering new options for the votive lamps. He stated that we were using the paraffin wax candles, and those seemed to be okay, but they needed to be replaced often. Then we tried beeswax candles, but it makes it too difficult to clean. Jim asked if there might be a better way. Oil was suggested but ruled out due to danger. The altar servers will continue to work on this issue.

By-Laws Update

As approved in the November meeting, David Short took out 1.5.3 and changed 1.11.3 to allow the audit to be submitted no later than the 2nd quarter.

Clergy Report

Meeting with Annunciation Clergy

Fr. Gregory and Dcn. David met with Fr. Joseph and his pastoral assistant. They had a nice meal and chatted about how the two communities can work together, like doing more services together (e.g. one presanctified in each Parish). It was suggested that we go there the first Wednesday of Lent and then they come here the next time. Fr. Joseph said they go to Project Mexico and would like to work together with us on that; Fr. Gregory will put David Short in contact with the Project Mexico coordinator. There will also be a basketball tournament in the Spring.

Choir Rehearsal

Chip and Mark want to start having a choir rehearsal on Wednesday evenings at 7pm.

Upcoming Funeral

Alexander Galouin died and Fr. Gregory will go up to Troy for the funeral.

Catechism Classes

Catechism classes begin in January and there will be two per week. We currently have 9 people interested and four children in these families

Dcn. David Upcoming Absence

Dcn. David will be serving in Lima on Feb. 23rd.

Vacation Church School

Heather noted that plans for VCS are moving forward. She asked if we could include Fr. Joseph in the planning meetings as he has requested to be there to see how run things. Council agreed that he could.

Closing Prayer

Fr. Gregory led St. Simeon's closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 7:33PM.

Action Items

Fr. Gregory

1. Contact his insurance person to add dental and vision insurance to his plan.
2. Put David Short in contact with the Project Mexico coordinator.
3. Email the person responsible for updating the OCA site and look into information about Fr. Mark Hodges.
4. Review the current pew card and work with Erin to make any necessary changes.
5. Inform Prof. Peter Bouteneff of the \$600 agreement.

Kerrie Wiese

1. Kerrie will amend the budget after she hears from Fr. Gregory regarding the new insurance policies.

Erin Caldwell

1. Erin will put an announcement in the bulletin about the following items:
 - a. The Darkness to Light Program – encouraging people to join and to be substitutes for church school.
 - b. St. Mary's Choir cd's.
2. Review the current pew card and work with Fr. Gregory to make any necessary changes. Then, print, laminate, and place the cards.
3. Organize the food after the Bouteneff event.
4. Erin will email Prof. Bouteneff to get a description for the event and advertise it, including inviting the Greek church and other churches in the area.

Ann

1. Check in with Alyson and Kerrie regarding the church school issues and put together a plan to address their needs.
2. Get a background check for Miho.

Bruce

1. Review the pledge list and contact those individuals who have not yet submitted a pledge, and make a reminder announcement on Sunday.
2. Talk to David Avdakov to get access to the online accounts for the CDs.
3. Contact the First Aid group and ask what type of space they will need to ensure we set up in the appropriate room.

Heather

1. Talk to David Avdakov to get access to the online accounts for the CDs.

David Short

1. Coordinate catering for the Planning Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted by:

X

Heather Weis
Parish Council Secretary

X

Fr. Gregory Ealy
Rector

Ratified: ____/____/____